"WILD CAVE" TOUR

- Open only to healthy and adventurous men, women, and youths (aged 12 and over)
- Five hours long
- Led by experienced, highly-trained guides
- No previous caving or mountain climbing experience necessary
- Explore, crawl, climb slopes with ropes and ladders, cross deep lakes on rafts
- We supply hard hat with light, coveralls, and gloves.
- Reservations recommended

HOURS:
Daily July - October
Weekends in November
All groups leave at 9 a.m.

For more information and to make reservations, call:

CALIFORNIA CAVERNS

(209) 736-2708

"TRAIL OF LIGHTS" TOUR

- Suitable for the whole family
- 80 minutes long
- Nearly level, lighted trail
- Professionally guided
- See the newly discovered Jungle Room, named for the array of crystalline "vines" covering the ceiling, many several feet long
- Follow in the footsteps of early explorers such as John Muir (who wrote extensively about the cavern in his book, *Mountains of California),* Bret Harte, and Mark Twain.
- View clear, mysterious lakes
- Learn the rich history of the cavern and surrounding countryside, including the once-busy town of Cave City.

HOURS:
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. summer
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. fall
Daily June - October. Weekends in November.

(Please note: Due to high water from winter rains, California Caverns are closed *approximately* Dec. — May. Please call (209) 736-2708 for more information on exact opening and closing dates.)

FOR INFORMATION:
WRITE
CALIFORNIA CAVERNS
BOX 78, VALLECITO, CALIFORNIA, 95251
OR CALL (209) 736-2708

Also Visit MOANING CAVERN

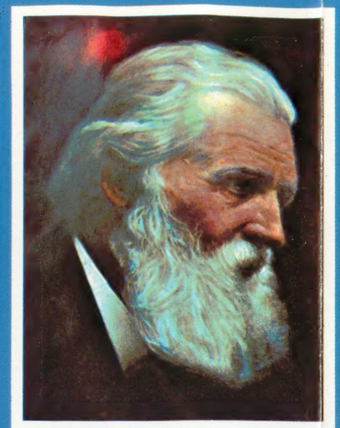
While travelling in the Mother Lode, don't miss seeing Moaning Cavern, located nine miles north of Columbia State Park on Parrotts Ferry Road (or take Hwy. 4 east from Angels Camp). Descend the famous 100-foot spiral staircase into a room big enough to fit the Statue of Liberty, and view 13,000 year old human remains found inside the Cavern. For the more adventursome, try the Moaning Cavern Adventure Tour for three hours of deep cavern exploration, including a 200-foot rope descent! Call (209) 736-2708 for more information.

CALIFORNIA CAVERNS AT CAVE CITY

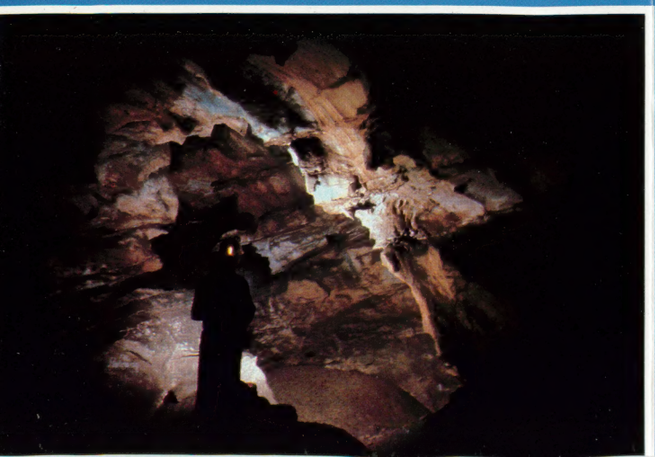
CALIFORNIA HISTORIC LANDMARK NO. 956

CAVE CITY

as described by John Muir



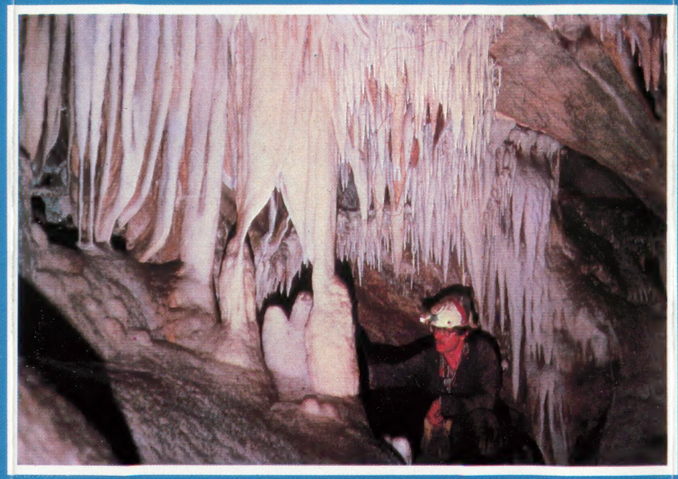
. . . the good people had much to say about the marvelous beauty of Cave City Cave, and advised me to explore it. This I was very glad to do . . . taking a trail . . . to the mouth of the cave, a small inconspicuous archway, mossy around the edges . . . with no appreciable hint or advertisement of the grandeur of the many crystal chambers within. Lighting our candles, which seemed to have no illuminating power in the thick darkness, we groped our way onward as best we could along narrow lanes and alleys, from chamber to chamber, around rustic columns and heaps of fallen rocks, stopping to rest now and then in particularly beautiful places — fairy alcoves furnished with admirable variety of shelves and tables, and round bossy stools covered with sparkling crystals. Some of the corridors were muddy, and in plodding along these we seemed to be in the streets of some prairie village in springtime. Then we would come to handsome marble stairways conducting right and left into upper chambers ranged above one another three or four stories high, floors, ceilings, and walls lavishly decorated with innumerable crystalline forms. After thus wandering exploringly, and alone for a mile or so, fairly enchanted . . . a charming little lakelet of unknown depth, never yet stirred by a breeze . . . its eternal calm excites the imagination even more profoundly than the silvery lakes of the glaciers rimmed with meadows and snow and reflecting sublime mountains.



Our guide . . . led us into the heart of the hill, up and down, right and left, from chamber to chamber more and more magnificent, all a-glitter like a glacier cave with icicle-like stalactites and stalagmites combined in forms of indescribable beauty. We were shown one large room that was occasionally used as a dancing hall; another that was used as a chapel, with natural pulpit and crosses and pews, sermons in every stone . . .

It was delightful to witness here the infinite deliberation of Nature, and the simplicity of her methods in the production of such mighty results, such perfect repose combined with restless enthusiastic energy . . .

The archways and ceilings were everywhere hung with down-growing crystals, like inverted groves of leafless saplings, some of them large, others delicately attenuated, each tipped with a single drop of water, like the terminal bud of a pine tree. The only appreciable sounds were the dripping and tinkling of water falling into pools or faintly splashing on the crystal floor.



In some places the crystal decorations are arranged in graceful flowing folds deeply plicated like stiff silken drapery. In others straight lines of the ordinary stalactite forms are combined with reference to size and tone in a regularly graduated system like the strings of a harp with musical tones corresponding thereto; and on these stone harps we played by striking the crystal strings with a stick. The delicious liquid tones they gave forth seemed perfectly divine as they sweetly whispered and wavered through the majestic halls and died away in faintest cadence, — the music of fairyland. Here we lingered and reveled, rejoicing to find so much music in stony silence, so much splendor in darkness, so many mansions in the depths of the mountains, buildings ever in process of construction, yet ever finished, developing from perfection to perfection, profusion without overabundance; every particle visible or invisible in glorious motion, marching to the music of the spheres in a region regarded as the abode of eternal stillness . . .

When we emerged into the bright landscapes of the sun everything looked brighter, and we felt our faith in Nature's beauty strengthened, and saw more clearly that beauty is universal and immortal, above, beneath, on land and sea, mountain and plain, in heat and cold, light and darkness.

from Mountains of California

John Muir

CAVE CITY TODAY

Since John Muir's visit to Cave City, much more has been explored. Recently, lakes over two hundred feet deep, hundred foot high chambers, and spectacular crystaline areas have tripled the known extent of the cavern system. Yet, speleologists feel that much remains for discovery and new passages and chambers continue to be discovered.

So extensive is this cavern system that two trips are offered just to see the highlights:

- "WILD CAVE" SPELUNKING TOUR
- "TRAIL OF LIGHTS" FAMILY TOUR

COME EXPLORE CALIFORNIA CAVERNS AT CAVE CITY